,Statement-II

State-wise number of sugar mills which did not work during the sugar seasons 2003-04 to 2005-06

SI. No,	State	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1.	Punjab	1	3	4
2.	Haryana	—	2	1
3.	Rajasthan	2	2	2
4.	Uttar Pradesh	19	16	16
5.	Madhya Pradesh	5	5	5
6.	Gujarat	7	5	6
7.	Maharashtra	49	89	47
8.	Bihar	18	19	19
9.	Assam		3	3
10.	Orissa	4	2	3
11.	West Bengal	1	1	1
12.	Nagaland	1	1	I
13.	Andhra Pradesh	14	8	5
14.	Karnataka	13	12	12
15.	Tamil Nadu	4	4	3
16.	Pondicherry	1	1	1
17.	Kerala	2	2	2
	ALL INDIA:	144	175	131

Offtake from PDS dealers

631. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the offtake from PDS dealers is reducing month by month;

(b) if so, whether Government had done any study about the reasons for that;

(c) if so, the findings thereof; and

(d) if not, whether there is any proposal with Government to this effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir. A statement showing the offtake of foodgrains (Rice and Wheat) under Targeted Public

Distribution System (TPDS) during last five years and monthly offtake during year 2006-07 and 2007-08 (upto June, 2007) is enclosed as Statement *{See* below).

(b) and (c) To get an independent feedback, the Ministry got the TPDS evaluated by ORG-Marg and Programme Evaluation Organization, (Planning Commission), Government of India, New Delhi. The reasons attributed to low-offtake in some States as mentioned in PEO report are local production and availability of foodgrains, narrow difference between prevalent market prices and issue prices under TPDS, local food preferences of people, and at times non-availability of railway rakes for movement.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

Details of offtake of foodgrains (Rice and Wheat) under TPDS (All India including Defence/CRPF/BSF etc.) for the year 2002-03 to 2005-06 and month-wise offtake of foodgrains for the year 2006-07 and 2007-08 (upto June, 2007).

(in lakh tons)

Year	Offtake
2002-03	203.41
2003-04	241.94
2004-05	296.52
2005-06	313 .87
2006-07	
Month	Offtake
April, 2006	24.74
May, 2006	28.60
June, 2006	25.78
July. 2006	26.94
August, 2006	26.67
September, 2006	25.91
October, 2006	25.44
November, 2006	25.09
December, 2006	26.50
January, 2007	26.73
February, 2007	26.73
March, 2007	27.26
TOTAL..	316.39

2007-08

Month	Offtake
April, 2007	25.55
May, 2007	28.04
June, 2007	27.19
TOTAL:	80.78

Wheat import

632. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have shelved its earlier proposal to import wheat from US due to unusually high weed content in the US varities, much beyond the permissible levels set in the Indian plant protection standards;

(b) if so, whether Government are searching for alternate sources like Australia for import of wheat to augment its buffer stocks to comfortable levels; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) The wheat is imported on Government account by floating Global Tenders in which wheat of any country is eligible for import as per tender specifications and conditions. During the year 2007-08 the State Trading Corporation of India (STC), have placed orders for import of 5.11 lakh MTs of wheat from various countries. The US request for relaxation of Phytosanitary norms regarding tolerance levels of quarantine weed seeds in wheat consignments was not accepted by the Government, in view of likely threat of entry of quarantine weeds into the country, which do not exist presently in India.

Weeds in imported wheat

†633. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that wheat is being imported from foreign countries at 317 and 330 Dollar per tonne;

(b) whether a team of Indian Agriculture Scientists sent to America has found such weeds in imported wheat which are not found in India; and

(c) whether such weeds would not damage our crops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) 5.11 lakh MTs of wheat has been ordered to be imported at a weighted average price of US $ 325.59 PMT C&F (FO)

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi